

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Claims 3-7, 24-25 and 27-31 are currently being amended. The amendments to 3-7, 24-25 and 27-31 are to improve their form, and do not narrow their scope.

This amendment changes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-48 are now pending in this application.

Double Patenting

Claims 1-48 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 6,612,274 to Iizuka et al. (“Iizuka”) and claims 1-12 of U.S. Patent No. 6,484,676 to Shimizu et al. (“Shimizu”). Without conceding the propriety of the above double patenting rejections, and in order to further prosecution, Terminal Disclaimers with respect to Iizuka and Shimizu are being filed herewith under 37 C.F.R. 1.321(c). Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the obvious-type double patenting rejections have been overcome and respectfully request that the rejections of claims 1-48 be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a

check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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